

Message Text

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SUBJECT: WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE - WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION

REF: BUCHAREST 3960

PER REFTEL, FOLLOWING ARE KEY PARAGRAPHS FROM CHAPTER III AND IV
OF THE WPPA.

1. POPULATION GROWTH:

16. ACCORDING TO THE UNITED NATIONS MEDIUM POPULATION PROJECTIONS,
LITTLE CHANGE IS EXPECTED TO OCCUR IN AVERAGE RATES OF
POPULATION GROWTH EITHER IN THE MORE DEVELOPED OR IN THE LESS
DEVELOPED REGIONS BY 1985. ACCORDING TO THE UNITED NATIONS LOW
VARIAN PROJECTIONS, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT AS A RESULT OF SOCIAL
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POPULATION POLICIES AS REPORTED BY
COUNTRIES IN THESECOND UNITED NATIONS INQUIRY ON POPULATION AND
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DEVELOPMENT, POPULATION GROWTH RATES IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

AS A WHOLE MAY DECLINE FROM THE PRESENT LEVEL OF 2.4 PERCENT PER ANNUM TO ABOUT 2 PERCENT BY 1985; AND BELOW 0.7 PERCENT PER ANNUM IN THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. IN THIS CASE THE WORLDWIDE RATE OF POPULATION GROWTH WOULD DECLINE FROM 2 PERCENT TO ABOUT 1.7 PERCENT.

18. COUNTRIES WHICH AIM AT ACHIEVING MODERATE OR LOW POPULATION GROWTH SHOULD TRY TO ACHIEVE IT THROUGH A LOW LEVEL OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES. COUNTRIES WISHING TO INCREASE THEIR RATE OF POPULATION GROWTH SHOULD, WHEN MORTALITY IS HIGH, CONCENTRATE EFFORTS ON THE REDUCTION OF MORTALITY, AND WHERE APPROPRIATE, ENCOURAGE AN INCREASE IN FERTILITY AND ENCOURAGE IMMIGRATION.

2. MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY

22. IT IS A GOAL OF THIS PLAN OF ACTION TO REDUCE, TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE, THE MORTALITY LEVEL, PARTICULARLY AMONG CHILDREN, AS WELL AS MATERIAL MORTALITY, IN ALL REGIONS OF THE WORLD, AND TO REDUCE NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL DIFFERENTIALS IN MORTALITY LEVELS. THE ATTAINMENT OF AN AVERAGE EXPECTATION OF LIFE OF 62 YEARS BY 1985 AND 74 YEARS BY THE YEAR 2000 FOR THE WORLD AS A WHOLE REQUIRE BY THE END OF THE CENTURY AN INCREASE OF 11 YEARS FOR LATIN AMERICA, 17 YEARS FOR ASIA AND 28 YEARS FOR AFRICA.

23. COUNTRIES WITH THE HIGHEST MORTALITY LEVELS SHOULD AIM BY 1985 TO HAVE AN EXPECTATION OF LIFE AT BIRTH OF AT LEAST 50 YEARS AND AN INFANT MORTALITY RATE OF LESS THAN 120 PER THOUSAND LIVE BIRTHS.

3. REPRODUCTION FAMILY FORMATION AND THE STATUS OF WOMEN

27. (A) RESPECT AND ENSURE, REGARDLESS OF THEIR OVERALL DEMOGRAPHIC GOALS, THE RIGHT OF PERSONS TO DETERMINE, IN A FREE, INFORMED AND RESPONSIBLE MANNER, THE NUMBER AND SPACING OF THEIR CHILDREN. (B) ENCOURAGE APPROPRIATE EDUCATION CONCERNING RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD AND MAKE AVAILABLE TO PERSONS WHO SO DESIRE ADVICE AND MEANS OF ACHIEVING IT.

36. THE PROJECTIONS IN PARAGRAPH 16 OF FUTURE DECLINES IN RATES OF POPULATION GROWTH, AND THOSE IN PARAGRAPH 22 CONCERNING INCREASED EXPECTATION OF LIFE, ARE CONSISTENT WITH DECLINES IN THE BIRTH RATE OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS A WHOLE FROM THE PRESENT LEVEL OF 38 PER THOUSAND TO 30 PER THOUSAND BY 1985; IN THESE PROJECTIONS, BIRTH RATES IN THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES REMAIN UNCLASSIFIED

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IN THE REGION OF 15 PER THOUSAND. TO ACHIEVE BY 1985 THESE LEVELS OF FERTILITY WOULD REQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL NATIONAL EFFORTS, BY THOSE COUNTRIES CONCERNED, IN THE FIELD OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POPULATION POLICIES, SUPPORTED, UPON REQUEST, BY ADEQUATE INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE. SUCH EFFORTS WOULD ALSO BE REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE THE INCREASE IN EXPECTATION OF LIFE.

37. IN THE LIGHT OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THIS PLAN OF ACTION,

COUNTRIES WHICH CONSIDER THEIR BIRTH RATES DETRIMENTAL TO THEIR NATIONAL PURPOSES ARE INVITED TO CONSIDER SETTING QUANTITATIVE GOALS AND IMPLEMENTING POLICIES THAT MAY LEAD TO THE ATTAINMENT OF SUCH GOALS BY 1985. NOTHING HEREIN SHOULD INTERFERE WITH THE SOVEREIGNTY OF ANY GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT OR NOT TO ADOPT SUCH QUANTITATIVE GOALS.

42. EQUAL STATUS OF MEN AND WOMEN IN THE FAMILY AND IN SOCIETY IMPROVES THE OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE. THIS PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY SHOULD BE FULLY REALIZED IN FAMILY PLANNING WHERE BOTH SPOUSES SHOULD CONSIDER THE WELFARE OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY.

43. IMPROVEMENT OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE FAMILY AND IN SOCIETY CAN CONTRIBUTE, WHERE DESIRED, TO SMALLER FAMILY SIZE, AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN TO PLAN BIRTHS ALSO IMPROVES THEIR INDIVIDUAL STATUS.

CHAPTER IV - RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

B. ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

104. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE EXPANDING, BUT STILL INSUFFICIENT, INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE IN POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT MATTERS REQUIRES INCREASED CO-OPERATION; UNFPA REQUESTED, IN CO-OPERATION WITH ALL ORGANIZATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNATIONAL POPULATION ASSISTANCE, TO PRODUCE A GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE IN POPULATION MATTERS WHICH WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO RECEIPT COUNTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS AND BE REVISED PERIODICALLY.

C. MONITORING REVIEW AND APPRAISAL

106. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT MONITORING OF POPULATION TRENDS AND POLICIES DISCUSSED IN THIS PLAN OF ACTION SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN CONTINUOUSLY AS A SPECIALIZED ACTIVITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND REVIEWED BIENNIALY BY THE APPROPRIATE BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, BEGINNING IN 1977. BECAUSE OF THE SHORTNESS OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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INTERVALS, SUCH MONITORING WOULD NECESSARILY HAVE TO BE SELECTIVE WITH REGARD TO ITS INFORMATIONAL CONTENT AND SHOULD FOCUS MAINLY ON NEW AND EMERGING POPULATION TRENDS AND POLICIES.

107. A COMPREHENSIVE AND THROUGH REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THIS PLAN OF ACTION SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN EVERY FIVE YEARS BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM. FOR THIS

PURPOSE THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IS INVITED TO MAKE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE EXISTING STRUCTURE AND RESOURCES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, AND IN CO-OPERATION WITH GOVERNMENTS. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE FIRST SUCH REVIEW BE MADE IN 1979 AND BE REPEATED EACH FIVE YEARS THEREAFTER. THE FINDINGS OF SUCH SYSTEMATIC EVALUATIONS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL WITH THE OBJECT OF MAKING, WHENEVER NECESSARY, APPROPRIATE MODIFICATIONS OF THE GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THIS PLAN.

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